



Summer Vacation? What ASPRO Did This Summer

The summer of even-numbered years is a slow time in the State Capitol because legislators are focused on the November elections. ASPRO, however, was not on vacation. During the last four months, the ASPRO Board and your lobbyists have been busy preparing for the next legislative session.

We know that the unions, primarily AFT, will get collective bargaining legislation introduced again in 2009. ASPRO has used the summer to meet with key legislators to discuss the next steps regarding proposals to authorize collective bargaining for UW academic staff and faculty. The message is unchanged: **ASPRO is not opposed to collective bargaining, but is opposed to any proposal which treats the academic staff differently than the faculty.**

ASPRO could support a collective bargaining program that assured that the academic staff and the faculty were in the same collective bargaining unit, and the ASPRO Board crafted a plan which would meet those requirements. Our hope is that the unions will embrace the compromise we crafted and that the specifics of the legislation that will be introduced in 2009 will incorporate ASPRO's compromise language.

In July, ASPRO's lobbyist Kathi Kilgore met with a lobbyist for AFT, Scott Spector, and offered the following compromise language:

UW System Collective Bargaining Drafting Instructions

Campus Collective Bargaining units

1. By law, each campus would have a single collective bargaining unit for faculty and academic staff.
2. When a petition for representation has been successful, the academic staff on the campus vote on whether to be represented by a union or not, and the faculty vote on whether to be represented by a union or not.
3. If both the academic staff and the faculty on the campus votes "yes", both are then represented by the union.
4. If just the academic staff garner enough "yes" votes, the union will be comprised of and only represent the academic staff on that campus.
5. If just the faculty garner enough "yes" votes, the union will be comprised of and only represent the faculty on that campus.
6. At any time the group that voted "no" in an election, can again petition to vote again. If the group votes "yes" in sufficient numbers, they are added to the already established collective bargaining unit represented by the already existing union.

Example: Enough petitions are submitted by faculty and academic staff at UW Platteville to force a vote. The faculty at the campus vote to be represented, but the academic staff vote "no". The faculty then vote to choose a union to represent them and AFT is selected. Two years later the academic staff at UW Platteville petition for a vote and vote in sufficient numbers to be represented. The academic staff at Platteville will then join the already established collective bargaining unit and will be represented by AFT.

We will share AFT's response to ASPRO's proposal in the next newsletter. In the meantime, we are interested in your thoughts and reactions. Contact ASPRO at aspro@aspro.net.